Dear Companion and friends

It is with pleasure that I take this present opportunity of writing to you for to inform you of my health and the health (of) our company in general. I am in good health at present and I hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same health. Our company in general are enjoying good health at this time and we are all in fine spirits. I have received one letter from you since I came to this place and was very glad to hear from you and to hear that you was all well. I want/to write to me as soon as you receive this and let me know how you are a getting along. I want you to take good care of your self and content your self until I can come home and then I think that I can content myself at home the ballance of my days. I cannot tel(1) but I think that we will all be at home in one year from the time we It is not passible that the war can last much longer for started. we have whip(p)ed the Mexicans in every attempt that we have made. We have made great progress through the enemies country since we have first come upon the Mexican soil. We have had several battles since we started through the enemies country. The first Battle we fought was at Huamantla(?) the second at Puebla the third at Attixco(?) the fourth at Tlascalla(?) the fifth at Matamorus and at each of these places we took a great number of prisoners, horses, mules and arms and ammunitions and several pieces of artillery.

page 2

Now I will inform you something of the Country and its inhabitants. It is a level sandy country between the mountains. There are mountains here that lies covered with snow during the season. As we XXX was on the Gulf of Mexico we seen a Mountain that was one hundred miles off. It is so high that it is always covered with snow and there are several Mountains that we can see from here that are so high that they are always covered with snow. The land is not very rich and fertile. It is very warm here. There was two mornings here that I saw ice as thick as window glass. Now I will inform you the price of some things here. Corn is two dollars per bushel. Potatoes is two dollars per bushel. Turkeys are one dollar and one and a half a piece. Chickens are from twenty five to fifty cents a piece.

The Mexicans are very ingenuous in there building. They have the splendedest buildings here that I ever saw. There towns look splendid but very old. They are built old-fashoned. They all have

flat roofs. They are covered with brick; but the Mexicans have not sens(5) enough for to till their ground. They don't know how to plow nor how to work oxen and horses. They work yokes on there mules and in working oxen instead of haveing bows they tie the yoke to the oxes horns. You stated in your letter that father wanted me to bring him a Mexican saddle. Tell him that I will if it is possible that I can. I saw one here that esst one hundred and eighty dollars.

Gi page 3

Give my respects to all of our relations and friends and tel them that I am well and would be glad for to see you all if it was possible but as that is impossible at this time I must content my self. The boys here sends there best wishes to the girls in that neighborhood. I will tell you slightly about(illegible) they pull up all their wheat and barley and stack in ricks and before they harvest they cut of(f) all of the roots. The fields looks green yet and the leaves on the shrubery is as green as they ever was in quarters. made a purpose for solgers. we have a pure fountain of water to our hands. You stated that if I found XXXXXX any fault to your letter to let you know it. I have no fault to find of it nor as manny as you please to write. That letter that I sent was pretty smudged. I was KXXXX a little out of humor that day. I must fetch my letter to a close. I should be glad if you would look a little after my thinks that I have out for when I come back I want to get along as fast as possible. I have saved most of my gold and silver. Send my best respects to all of my friends. They was a train arrived here today from the citty of Mexico and is on their way to Vera Cruz.

..... yours

purted. I ways are now dollar and one and a main to place

John Mason.

Elisabeth . Mason

the letter was folded and mailed without envelope addressed to:

Mr.John Gummere, Christys Prairie, Clay County, Indiana

the post mark is illegible and the mark "10" evidently is postage

The an Lands are very legalithin in these hullding. They have

appropriate buildings here that I ever war. There seems look

Dear wife

I take this as an opportunity to inform you that i am in the best of health and i hope that when this comes to your hand it will find you all the same i have received one letter from you since i have been in this City w(h)ich gave me great satisfaction that you were all well. As fer the health here is very good everry man in this campany is well enough to be up and about. we have lost but to(two) or 3 men cince last sumer. G. Rodgers (?), Wheeler and Ancil L. Curry. He died at Very Cruz as it relates to the war i think its about done. We have had no fighting for to(two) or three months and they are a getting so wild that we can scaree ever get a shot at them any more. I think that they will make peace soon if they have not already done it. It is supposed by a great many that peace is not the best. One thing we know that a treaty of peace is alread(y) been agreed upon and has been signed by the commissioners of both parties. We don't expect to be in another battle in Mexico. We have seen tollerable easy times for about month this past all we do is to stand gard and drill five days included and we do it up brown. Our eatables is cofee, sugar, rice, beans, pork, baker's bread and beef. As for the weather warm and a getting warmer. Its some dry here there has been no rain here cince in November there has been plenty of fruit here all the time such as apples, figs, oranges, mellons, bannanes, plantannes and all of such vegetables. The population of this city is estimated at eighty thousand inhabitants and is kept under by about four thousand Americans well we are some certain

page 2

our occapation is this when we are off duty playing ball, dancing, singing songs, singing by note and cutting up capers. We are pretty good at uchore(eucher?) hardly ever have anny fussing but as a band of brothers joined peace and safety shall find - my dearest friend I heard from you XX a few days ago from a letter from Clay County dated January the 9 which rather surprised me to hear that you had a young son and called its name John Windfield Scott. I would be very glad to see you and the little general. It would be my greatest desire to be home and see you both in good health. I think the time is not far distant when we will all be at home but as for this soldier

I like to be one as well as ixpect to be or better. But I know i had ought not to beme but i did i will handle the scolding that you or your parents will give me without saying a word but any one else must not. Well when i heard the news i concluded i would throw away my uniform coat which i did. I want you to do the best you can and i dont want you to want for any thing as long as i have any thing i will send you's some money the next opportunity - tell Harlen G. that he may build my house if he has not got out of the notion the same as the contract was made between us and if he has forgot it is this - 18 by 20 hewed logsjoice and sleepers and nail on the roof of good clapboards and cut off the corners and i will find the nails i will give him or any other man twenty five dollars i will give it as soon as i can have an opportunity of forking it over if any one feels like taking the job build it near where the old homestead

page 3

John Mason

forgive my bad pen

to ElisaBeth Jane Mason

the letter was folded and mailed without envelope addressed to:
"To Mrs. Elisabeth J. Mason, Christies Prairie, Clay County, State of Indiana, U.S.A."

no postmark but the figure "10" is legible

JO ETOMONI -

In answer to my appeal for old-time war letters, George G. Jackson of Riley sent me two letters dated 1848 from a soldier in the Mexican War to his wife in Clay County. These faded and in a few places, almost illegible old letters were of the type that were folded and mailed without Envelopes or postage stamps. They are both postmarked Pueblo, Mexico.

Mr. Jackson tells me that he knew the son of the letter writer and his family who lived near Cory. The soldier was John Mason, who wrote to his wife, Elizabeth. The son of Mr. Jackson's

acquaintance was Scott Mason, Potatoes is two dollars per bushel. Turkeys are one dollar

"Dear Companion and friends-It is with pleasure that I take this present opportunity of writ-



ing to you for you enjoying

Dorothy J. Clark the same, Our company in general are enjoying good health at this time and we are all in fine spirits. I have received one letter from you was very glad to hear from you . . . I want you to take good care of your self and content your self until I can come home and then I think that I can con-

of my days.

"I cannot tell but I think that we will all be at home in one year from the time we started. It is not possible that the war can last much longer for we have whipped the Mexicans in every attempt that we have made. We have made great progress through the enemies country since we have first come upon the Mexican soil. We have had several batles since we started through the enemies country. The first Battle we fought was at Huamantla (the spelling is doubtful for the locations), the second at Puebla, the third at Attixco, the fourth at Tlascalla, the fifth at Matamorus, and at each of these places we took a great number of prisoners, horses, mules and arms and ammunitions and several pieces of artillery.

Descriptive Passage.

"Now I will inform you something of the Country and its inhabitants. It is a level, sandy country between the mountains. There are mountains here that lies covered with snow during the season. As we was on the Gulf of Mexico we seen a Mountain that was one hundred miles The land is not very rich and fertile. It is very warm here. There was two mornings here that I saw ice as thick as window glass. Now I will inform included, and we do it up brown, you the price of some things here. Corn is two dollars per bushel.

and one and a half a piece. On Jan. 6, 1848, he wrote: Chickens are from twenty five to fifty cents a piece.

"The Mexicans are very ingenuous in there buildings. They have the splendedest buildings to inform you here that I ever saw. There towns look splendid but very old. and the health They are built old-fashioned. (of) our com- They all have flt roofs. They are pany in gen- covered with brick; but the Mexeral. I am in icans have not sens(e) enough good health for to till their ground. They at present don't know how to plow nor how and I hope to work oxen and horses. They that these few work yokes on there mules and lines may find in working oxen instead of have

> ing bows they tie the yoke to the oxen horns.

"You stated in your letter that father wanted me to bring him a Mexican saddle. Tell him that since I came to this place and I will if it is possible . . . I saw was very glad to hear from you one here that cost one hundred and eighty dollars.

"Give my respects to all of our relations and friends and tell them that I am well and would be tent myself at home the ballance glad for to see you all if it was possible . . . the boys here sends there best wishes to the girls in the neighborhood . . . I must fetch my letter to a close. I should be glad if you would look a little after my things that I have out for when I come back I want to get along as fast as possible. I have saved most of my gold and silver . . . " and he signed the letter "John Mason to Elizabeth J. Mason." The letter was addressed on the outside fold to "Mr. John Gummere, Christys Prairie, Clay County, Indiana."

The second letter was sarcastically headed "Peubelly (instead of Pueblo) Mexico, and dated March, 1848.

"Dear Wife-I take this as an opportunity to inform you that I am in the best of health and I hope that when this comes to your hand it will find you all the same . . . We have lost but two men or three since last summer-G. Rodgers, Wheeler and Ancil L. Curry. He died at Very Cruz . . as it relates to the war I think its about done. We have had no fighting for two or three months and they are getting so wild that we can scarce ever get a shot at them any more. I think that they will make peace soon if they have not already done it . . . We have seen tollerable easy times for about month this past all we do is to stand guard and drill five days

"I thought I would have got a letter from Ben Cain before this time but if none comes probably because I did not write to him I should be very glad to see him and Levina both. Tell Levina that I am as big a fool as I ever was and pretty much the same old sort. Ask Ben Lamine if he hasn't wished it was night. Tell Ephraim to whip them steers.

Our eatables is cofee, sugar, rice, Tell Sarah to have a quilt in the beans, baker's bread and (illegi-frames against we come back. Tell ble word) beef. As for the (name illegible) not to hug the weather - warm and a getting girls too hard. Tell all the rest warmer. Its some dry here. There that I am well and full of fun. has been no rain here cince No-I send my best respects to all vember. There has been plenty of that neighborhood. So no more of fruit here all the time such as at present but remain your well apples, figs, oranges, mellons, wisher and loving husband untill bannanes, plantannes and all of death." This letter was signed such vegetables. "John Mason forgive my bad pen

Tells of Occupation Forces. to ElisaBeth Jane Mason" and "The population of this city is was addressed to: "Mrs. Elisabeth estimated at eighty thousand in-J. Mason. Christies Prairie, Clay habitants and is kept under by County, State of Indiana, U. S. A. about four thousand Americans Mr Jackson tells me that he had ... our occupation is this when heard his father and other older we are off duty-playing ball, persons sixty years ago speak of dancing, singing songs, singing by Christy's Prairie as somewhere note and cutting up capers. We north of Cory, Indiana, probably are pretty good at uchoreabout two miles and was a small (euchre?) hardly ever have any community before Cory and fussing but as a band of brothers Staunton came into existence. In joined, peace and safety shall the 1830's and 1840's it was a country log store and postoffice.

". . . I heard from you a fewThe mail was carried out from days ago from a letter from ClayTorre Haute twice weekly. County dated January the 9 A great-granddaughter of the which rather surprised me toMexican War soldier, Mrs. Emma hear that you had a young sonJackson, is a patient of a local and called its name John Windmursing home , the letters field Scott. I would be very gladcame to Mr. Jackson from his to see you and the little general mother-in-law, Nancy Chandler. I think the time is not far dis She was the daughter of John tant when we will all be at homeReece of Riley, who married a but as for this soldier I like to Lindsey and John Mason be one as well as I ixpected to ied her sister. At least this be or better. But I know I had ow Mr. Jackson remembers family relationships, but how ought not to (have) come but I did. I will handle the scolding . . Chandler came into posses-that you or your parents will to of the letters he doesn't give me without saying a word v.

but anyone else must not. "Well, when I heard the news I concluded I would throw away my uniform coat which I did. I want you to do the best you can and I dont want you to want for anything as long as I have any thing I will send you some money tell Harlen G. that he may build my house if he has not got out of the notion-the same as the contract was made between us and if he has forgot it is this: 18 by 20 hewed logs joice (joists) and sleepers and nail on the roof of good clapboards and cut off the corners and I will find the nails. I will give him or any other man twenty five dollars . . . as soon as I can have an opportunity of forking it over. If any one feels like taking the job build it near where the old homestead . . .

Community Affairs Fish

REFERENCE DO NOT CIRCULATE

VICO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

MRS. ROBERT I. CLARK
LOCAL HISTORIAN & GENEALOGIST
2032 NORTH EIGHTH STREET
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

April 1st

Dear Mr. Jackson:

I have just finished copying the two Mexican War letters which you loaned to me. Sorry to have been so slow, but you can see from the enclosed what is taking a great deal of my time these days.

The letters were most interesting and I plan to use them soon in a Sunday column. Was the writer, John Mason, and his wife related to you? Where is Christies Prairie in Clay County? This information would make the story more interesting.

Thank you again for the letters.

Very truly yours,

Dorothy J. Clark

1 Peley Sud 5/13/61 Hers Clark. your letter of april 151. am mable to get the Suformation you as for I am Larry, the aide Proper are all Jone that Could give any Imformation on this. I have heard the older ones sixty years ago Day Father Speak of Christus France Prairie if was Some where north of Com And Probably 2 miles it was in use & before Cory and Stamton Come into existainel. in the 305 and 405 just a Country log Hore. The mail was Carried out from T. H luxice Weekley. To John mason was no relation of mine I know his son scot mason of Cony RR-2, and his family The letters Come to no by my Throther in law Francy Chundler

ges was the daughter of John Reece of Riley. Sow John Reed born 1825 Married Oa miss findsey and John Mason also Firanced her Lister 12 Way I remember it. and some how Firs Chandles Came in Posession of the lettershow I think the John Frason browne was how Christies Fraise in Perry town Ship Clay Co. John Thason has a grand daughter in Walter hussing home at 15th and class hut St. Enma Jackson but I was unable to go disterview her she is bedfort land deaf. From her I believe this Via best I can give you day song I could dot da have Includy.

. . .

Landon-Cochran, a gunsmith, was one of the early settlers of Terre Haute. He served in the Mexican War as captain of the Fort Harrison Guards, receiving his commission from Governor James Whitcomb in 1847, and receiving after the war a warrent for 160 acres of land in Iowa, signed by Millard Fillmore. His son, George, also a gunsmith of Terre Haute (shop on Fourth, near the Cincinnati House), likewise served in the Mexican war. This record of a Fort Harrison Guard serving in the Mexican War is interesting. It was the forerunner of the other Fort Harrison Guard which was first to volunteer from this county in 1861.

Captain Phillip Kearney raised over thirty dragoons in and about Terre Haute. They were mounted on beautiful gray horses, bought in this vicinity. The rest of the company was raised at Rockville, Covington, and some in Illinois.

The building occupied by the recruits for the Mexican
War as a barracks was a two-story frame building on the southeast
corner of Main and Fourth street. The lieutenant would take his
men down Main street to the open ground just back of the
Congregational Church for drilling.

The Fort Harrison Guards left Terre Haute for Fort Clark, on the Ohio River, to join the Fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, June 5, 1847. They were given a free dinner at the hotels of the city, and departed for the place of rendevous in wagons voluntarily offered for their use by the farmers of the neighboring country.

permit (d) Patriotic organization (name) (e) Official U. S. records (f) Other (specify).

FORM No. 3 -The American Legion

Mexican War Vet. 4th Reg. Ind. Vol. Inf.

Cou	nty <u>Vigo</u>			
City	or Twp. Riley Tws.		Cemetery	Mewhinney
Nar	ne Lowe	Jame	28	
	(First)		(Last)	(Middle)
(A)	Grave No Lo Marker: Flat	FIELD	CHECK	
1.	Grave No Lo	t No	Block No.	-O. A.
2.	Marker: Flat	Upright	None	- NORE
	Information on Marker:			
				~~~~ <u>~~~</u>
				197
(B)		CEMETEDY D	ECORD DATA	(Field Foreman)
9.				
	Grave No Lo			
5.	Date of Burial		Remarks	Soldier
6.	Book No.	Pag	re No	
(C)		DEATH CERT	FICATE DATA	(Clerk)
			Certificate	No
7.	Address			
8.	Date of Death		(City or Town)	(State)Cause
9.	Date of Birth	Place		
10.	Next of Kin			
	(C	Name)		(Address)
	History shows th	1.19	iving 1907 RECORD	(Clerk)
(D)	1-6-1861			Serial No.
	Branch of Service Army			Pvt.
		1 Dog Tad	Traf	
13.	Company, outfit or ship	Co. I	4 Reg. Ind	
14.	Sources Gar			Joyce (Clerk)

Sources: (a) Inspection of burial plot (b) Section or cemetery record (c) Death certificate or burial permit (d) Patriotic organization (name) (e) Official U. S. records (f) Other (specify).

FORM No. 3 -The American Legion

permit (d) Patriotic organization (name) (e) Official U. S. records (f) Other (specify).

(Clerk)

Reg. Vol. Ind. Inf. Mexican War.

Cou	nty <u>Vigo</u>		Oxox
City	or Twp. Riley Tws.	Cemetery	Mewhinney
Nan	ne Wyeth	Willis	
	(First)	(Last)	(Middle)
(A)		FIELD CHECK	
1.	Grave No Lot	No Block No.	
2.	Marker: Flat	Upright REG Gov. None	
3.	Information on Marker: (	Copy Exactly) Mexic	an War
	W. B. Wyeth	4th Ind. Vol. Mex.	War.
(B)		CEMETERY RECORD D	(Field Foreman)
	Crove No Lo	t No Block No.	
	1 J		
ъ.	Date of Burial	I	Remarks Soldler
7			
6.	Book No.	Page No.	
			(Clerk)
(C)		DEATH CERTIFICATE I	DATA
		Се	rtificate No.
7.	Address(Street)	(City or	Town) (State)
8.		Place	Cause
9.	Date of Birth	Place	
10.	Next of Kin		
	(r	Name)	(Address)
(D)		SERVICE RECORD	(Clerk)
(D)	This man not live 1-6-1861  Date Enlisted 6-5-1842	ing 1SERVICE RECORD	st record Serial No.
			Rank Pvt.
14.	Sources B.	Gar.	Hinkle

Sources: (a) Inspection of burial plot (b) Section or cemetery record (c) Death certificate or burial permit (d) Patriotic organization (name) (e) Official U. S. records (f) Other (specify).

WAR (r.C.) - Mexican PAMPHET FOR MEXICAN WAR Vigo County Bogard, John Lowe, James Mewhinney, Andrew Wyeth, Willis

permit (d) Patriotic organization (name) (e) Official U. S. records (f) Other (specify).

FORM No. 3 -The American Legion

Mexican

permit (d) Patriotic organization (name) (e) Official U. S. records (f) Other (specify).

FORM No. 3 -The American Legion

立

War

exican

			22	wor	k Sneet No	2000
Coun	nty	Vigo				A CD
City	or Tw	p. Riley Tws		Cemetery _	Mewhinney	100
Nam	ie.	Wyeth		Willis		. 0
		(First)		(Last)		(Middle)
(A)				FIELD CHECK		
	Crow	No	Lot No	Block No.		
				REG Gov. None		
3.				xactly) <u>Mexica</u>		
		W. B. Wy	reth 4th	Ind. Vol. Mex.	war.	
					(Field	Foreman)
(B)			СЕМІ	ETERY RECORD DA		
4.	Grav	re No.	_ Lot No	Block No.		
5.	Date	of Burial		Re	emarks Soldie	e <u>r                                      </u>
6.	Bool	No		Page No		
(C)			DEAT	H CERTIFICATE D.		Cierk)
<b>C7</b>	E E A				timeate 140.	
		, ,	reet)	(City or 7		(State)
				Place		
9.	Date	e of Birth		Place		
10.	Nex	t of Kin	(Name)		(Address	)
					((	lerk)
(D	)	This man not	living l	SERVICE RECORD		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
11.				ate Discharged Los	t record Seri	al No.
12.	Bran	ch of Service	Army		Rank Pyt.	
				Ind. Vol. Inf.		
		ces B.				le le
14.				Section or cemetery rec	(0	llerk)
	permit	(d) Patriotic organ	ization (name)	(e) Official U. S. records	s (f) Other (specify)	).

FORM No. 3 -The American Legion

County Vigo	_ 3 """	
City or Twp. Riley Tws.	CemeteryMewhin	ney
Name Lowe J		
(First) ·	(Last)	(Middle)
	LD CHECK	
1. Grave No Lot No	Block No.	^
2. Marker: Flat Upright		VOER
		TO AR
3. Information on Marker: (Copy Exactly	') <u> </u>	70, CA
		ZA,
	(Fiel	ld Foreman)
(B) CEMETER	Y RECORD DATA	
4. Grave No Lot No	Block No.	
5. Date of Burial	Remarks Sold	ier
6. Book No		
(C) DEATH C	ERTIFICATE DATA	(Clerk)
(b)		
7. Address(Street)	(City or Town)	(State)
8. Date of Death Place	e Cause	
9. Date of Birth Place	e	
10. Next of Kin		
(Name)	(Addre	88)
History shows this man no	VICE RECORD	(Clerk)
1-6-1861		. 1 37
11. Date Enlisted 6-5-1847 Date 1		
12. Branch of Service Army 4 Reg. 1	nd. Inf.	
13. Company, outfit or ship Co. Co.	ll Inf. Ind.	Inf.
14. SourcesGar	J	русе
		(Clerk) rtificate or burial

FORM No. 3 -The American Legion

Mexican War Vet. 4th Reg. Ind.

War of 1812

	Work	Sheet No	
County Vigo		Oo As We	
City or Twp. Honey Creek	Cemetery 01		
Name_Thomas	J.	General	
(First)	(Last)	(Middle)	
(A)	FIELD CHECK		
1. Grave No Lot		low from West Fence	
2. Marker: FlatX Prt U			
3. Information on Marker: (C			
Commander of the	Kentucky troops at Ne	ew Orleans in 1815.	
		Kelly	
(B)	CEMETERY RECORD DATA	(Field Foreman)	
4. Grave No Lot	No Block No		
5. Date of Burial			
	- David		
6. Book No	Page No.		
		(Clerk)	
(C)	DEATH CERTIFICATE DATA	A	
	Certific	ate No.	
7. Address			
(Street)  8. Date of Death Oct. 16,	(City or Town	n) (State) Cause	
9. Date of Birth 1765	PlaceAt time of de	eath age 73 yr. 6 mo. 1 D	
10. Next of Kin			
	ame)	(Address) Kelly	
		(Clerk)	
(D)	SERVICE RECORD		
11. Date Enlisted	Date Discharged	Serial No.	
12. Branch of Service Army	Ran	nk General	
13. Company, outfit or ship Co	mmander Kentucky troc	pps at the Battle of	
14. Sources New Orleans	in 1815.	Kelly	
(Clerk) Sources: (a) Inspection of burial plot (b) Section or cemetery record (c) Death certificate or burial			
	(name) (e) Official U. S. records (f		
The state of the s	0-11		